



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE'S FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE POSTS BANNER YEAR

FPS Weapons Seizures Climb by 400%, Arrests Increase by 58% under Homeland Security

WASHINGTON - The Federal Protective Service (FPS), which provides law enforcement and security services to more than 8,800 federal facilities nationwide, reported a significant boost in arrests and seizures for Fiscal Year 2004 -- the first full year that FPS stood as a part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

FPS is a component of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the largest investigative arm of DHS. FPS is responsible for providing security and law enforcement services to federally owned and leased facilities nationwide. In this role, FPS provides law enforcement and security for more than one million tenants and daily visitors at federal facilities nationwide.

In FY 2004, officers of FPS were responsible for 4,426 arrests - a 58 percent increase over the previous fiscal year. In addition, FPS agents responded to 430 bomb threats and 877 calls about suspicious packages and other items at federal facilities.

Noteworthy convictions include that of an Indiana man who was sentenced to three years in prison after he threatened to shoot a Social Security Administration Judge. In another FPS case, eight individuals were sentenced to a combined 19 years federal prison and 24 years of probation for their roles in an ATM theft scheme. Additionally, these eight were ordered to pay \$710,723 in restitution for their role in the theft of monies from an ATM on federal property.

Furthermore, FPS prevented 548,849 prohibited items - including knives, canisters of Mace, pepper spray, and other weapons - from being carried into federal properties. This represents an increase of more than 400 percent over the previous year's seizures.

"The rapid increase in arrests and seizures in this most recent fiscal year illustrates how FPS is continuing to become a more effective law enforcement entity under the Department of Homeland Security," said FPS Director Wendell C. Shingler. "As part of ICE, we're now better positioned than ever before to

share information and to leverage our enforcement efforts - all in service of our goal of providing a safer, more secure environment for federal employees and the American people.”

In FY 2004, FPS also provided law enforcement and security during 1,668 public demonstrations of various sizes, as well as protecting federal properties and employees during the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, the G-8 Summit in, Ga. and the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Meeting in Washington, D.C.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security